Recd. Octo 19. 1854.

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Revd. S. May junr.
Leicester
Massachusetts
United States.

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(1) Keep clean.

England,
Bridgewater, September 29th 1852

My dear Sir;

Since I last wrote to you, we have had another working meeting of our little Society here & I hope have once more strengthened each other in our hatred of Slavery and oppression. It is impossible to judge ~~at~~ once what the effects of our meetings really are, nor is it necessary for us to know; all we have to do, is to work and leave the rest to the Great Ruler of all things: in His Good time He will bring about the harvest.

I was rather amused, & perhaps a little annoyed at a letter which I see in the last Liberator (No 1052) Signed "one of your Subscribers ever since 1835". in which our Good friend Parker Pillsbury is rather blamed for his silence about the wickedness of the English Government and people. I think that some of our Good friends in America have rather strange notions about England & English Institutions & fancy that we are suffering under some sad oppression. - Letters like those that Joseph Barker sends you are perhaps calculated to keep up this delusion, and yet we that live here do not find such great reason for complaint. My friends here never gave me credit for much Toryism, I dare say: I am rather too much of a radical for such a suspicion ever to be raised against me, & it has never been my habit to speak of our English Institutions in Church and State as the model of a Constitution. I have left that to Republicans of the United States pattern.- I grant we have many things that can bear improvement, & I could perhaps reckon up as many things in the present state of ~~things~~ affairs that need that amendment as the old Subscriber could. But there is one great difference in our English grievances and the one great grievance of the United States.- We have nothing that denies the humanity of any human being that breathes upon our shores: Our State Church never tells its members to send Bibles to the heathen, ~~like~~ as your voluntary Churches do. Our Government although it has carried on unjust wars enough, never pledges its whole power to keep in servitude, men born upon our soil, because they have a shade of darker colour on their skin. We do not give up our prisons, to confine men whose only crime is that they love liberty. We are sadly below ~~than~~ that perfection which must be the goal of humanity, but the direst wrong committed under the sanction of England's time honoured name, can not compare with slaveholding as practised in the Model(?) Republic. And if Mr. Pillsbury while visiting us were not to speak of the evils he sees here, because his mind is absorbed by the one greater evil which transcends all others, I for one cannot see ~~that~~ he is to blame. — But let me say that while Mr. Pillsbury was my guest, I heard him speak of things which the English Government

had done in anything but laudatory terms,
if the opportunity offers, when his health is
strong enough to bear the fatigue, I do not think
from what I have seen of him that he is the man
to shrink from telling truth, because it is
unpalatable. I may say this that ~~the~~ at the
Manchester Conference, when to slander Joseph
Barker was not the best course to obtain
popularity amongst our folks here, Mr. Th
being very unequivocally expressed his opinion
of the course that should have been adopted

Let me say one word too about our Anti-Slavery
friends here and their relation to English
wrongs. Of course we being long held under
Monarchichal rule, do not look upon that
form of government as many of your
Republicans do. - We have seen in our past
history that many advantages arise from our
constitution, & with reforms in parliament,
in the civil service & general patronage, also

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which we shall obtain, we do not hesitate, to say that we are satisfied with our government and are loyal to our Queen: [illegible] Some of the prominent Antislavery men belong to our Aristocracy. They naturally hold even stronger views than I have expressed: but it can never be said of men like ~~Shaftes~~ Lord Shaftesbury, Lord Brougham and others I can name that they have been indifferent to the improvement of their fellow countrymen: there is hardly [illegible] a practical philanthropic movement with which the name of Ashley has not been associated, nor an enlightened movement for education which has not been supported by Lord Brougham. - Descending to [illegible] those who hold a lower rank, both through the list of English Abolitionists they are ever to be found among the active workers in reforms at home. Indeed let me ask is it not natural they should if they are at all governed by principle. The very reason that causes them to work for oppressed humanity when they hear its cry for help coming across the Atlantic, forces them to hear that same voice when lifted up in England. Since I have been settled in Bridgwater, I have had occasion now and then to call upon friends on Antislavery business. When I found myself so obliged, I bethought me of those who would be likely to help, & I always picked out those who were active in the Temperance Movement, who were interested in the cause of Education, who take part in movements for political reform, & never with perhaps two exceptions have my expectations been disappointed: these were the persons willing to help the slave. Those amongst us who spend much time & thought upon Antislavery matters think as a general rule, that one of the best means of aiding the Anti Slavery movement is to take part in these reformatory movements at home, because we know that public opinion is the great lever by which we can act upon America, and because we know likewise that the public opinion of a noble and enlightened nation will be of greater power than that of a benighted & ignoble people. We wish to make our people sober, because we know that sobriety gives strength to our appeals: we wish to educate our people, because knowledge is power, we wish to make our nation truly a Christian people, because Christian love will overcome all things in the end, even the hardness of a slave dealers heart! And if we thus are working hard, at the cost of much that the world deems valuable for reform at home: it is because our principles are not bounded by the narrow limits of our own little Island, but

because we feel that, "our country is the world
& our countrymen are all mankind". No
true Abolitionist is a friend of oppression, &
although we may differ in opinion as to forms
of government and theological doctrines
no American Abolitionist need fear that in
England the opponents of American Slavery
are the defenders of wickedness and crime
Excuse my writing rather warmly on this subject
I was grieved that a man like Mr. Pillsbury should
~~[illegible]~~
be doubted by his friends in America. He has
deserved something better at their hands. There
is no evil here, the combat with which bears
with so much obloquy, and if we may judge from
past events, so much danger as the advocacy
of Emancipation does in the United States, &
if a man has been found true, as Pillsbury
has been in danger, you need not fear but
that he will be equally faithful in less trying
[Our correspondent may be perfectly sure that Mr. Pillsbury has the entire respect and confidence of the American Abolitionists. — M.]
circumstances. — Many on this side of the
Atlantic who have not been tried as he has, think

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of him and that noble band, the American Abolitionists, with reverence and love. — We cannot avoid being pained when a doubt is thrown upon their honesty and zeal. Let this be my excuse for this long and perhaps rather tedious epistle. —

I have read a rather remarkable letter in the New York Times of the 15th inst from the Hon. Henry A. Wise. It does seem strange to Englishmen, to see any man of standing absolutely defending slavery as a divine Institution. We can hardly fancy it. I often find people who think that the Southerners are themselves enemies of Slavery & would gladly get rid of it, if they could; they cannot believe that we abolitionists are just when we say that what is wanted in the States is not the power but the will to emancipate. Letters like that of Mr. Wise confirming our statements are very useful. We are grateful therefore to papers like the Times that give us such proofs. The leader of the Times against Mr. Wise

is I suppose a great advance upon what could
have found admittance in an important New
York journal a short time ago, and yet how
feeble and unsatisfactory is the tone which
is adopted. The editor thinks there may be
reasons why some races of men should pass through
a state of bondage. I wonder what reasons could
be adduced for such a statement. Would the
all wise Creator have given man a freewill, if
there were any reason why it should be better
for him not to make use of it? But why
argue about such a self evident proposition.
Freedom must be better for man than slavery,
& no one can at any rate be a rightful judge
whether servitude would be beneficial to
his brother. Let every one judge for himself;
and if he thinks a few years' slavery would do
him good, perhaps the Editor of the New York
Daily Times can find some philanthropic
planter in S. Carolina or elsewhere, who

will confer the benefit upon him. I should like
to know what ~~be~~ good would arise from it: perhaps
we might have stronger Anti Slavery articles from
the editor's pen, if he had gone through a
course of plantation service. —

Next week we shall have collected all
our Bazaar contributions. — I do not know
what their value will be, but I can say that
all will be sent with a hearty good will & an
earnest desire that there were more to send.

May God's blessing go with them & enable them
to help you to continue your useful labours
with that zeal and courage which has
hitherto characterized your efforts. — I
feel all the more interested in the Bazaar as
it supports the Standard in its improved
form. The paper was always valuable, but
now it has in my humble opinion increased
its power of usefulness. — Every article it

contains seems to be of value. The cause i
has to defend is noble indeed; We have reason to b
grateful to Providence that men worthy of the
cause have risen in its defence. —

And now let me conclude. This is the
longest letter I have written for some time
I have been suffering from languor and weak
which renders any exertion painful & now
my headaches with what I have done. Yo
must excuse its desultory character &
rather illegible character; ascribe it my
being out of health & believe me
in health or out of it
ever in the cause of humanity
most faithfully yours
S. Alfred Steinthal.

Rev. S. May junr

Please return this copy to
S. May Jr. — who also
would like to see the proof.

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